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Georgia Library Association - 2014 GLA Awards

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Georgia Library Association 2014 Awards

On October 2, at the Georgia Council of Media Organizations (COMO) conference, the Georgia Library Association (GLA) honored librarians and community members for their contributions to libraries during the past year. GLA congratulates and thanks the following recipients for their service and activities.

Bob Richardson Memorial Award

The Bob Richardson Memorial Award is given each year in recognition of those who have given outstanding service to the Georgia Library Association. This year, GLA is delighted to recognize the contributions of Carol Stanley.

Carol is currently the Director of Library Services at Athens Technical College in Athens, Georgia and has been a member of GLA since 1995. Carol's contributions to GLA have been both long-term and significant as demonstrated by her accomplishments as a GLA member in addition to her standing as the go-to-librarian for GLA members. Carol has held multiple GLA offices and served on numerous GLA committees, including serving on the Public Relations Committee in 1996, 1998, and 1999 and coordinating the Swap and Shop in 1998 and 1999. She is a member of the Technical Colleges Interest Group, serving as chair 1999–2000 and Vice Chair/Chair Elect 1998–1999. Carol's passion, dedication, knowledge, and experience has greatly assisted in advancing GLA goals, from emceeing the scholarship raffle to acting as the program chair for COMO, the state library conference, while serving as GLA President in 2010.

This award formally recognizes all of Carol's contributions.



Jay Turner and Carol Stanley

Nix-Jones Award

The Nix-Jones award is given to a librarian for their service and contributions to Georgia librarianship. This year we recognize the contributions of Jay Turner. Mr. Turner is GLA's current second vice-president/membership chair. He has also served nationally on the Public Library Association's Communities of Practice Taskforce, Leadership Development, and Board of Directors. Locally, he is the director of continuing education and training for the Georgia Public Library Service. As director, Mr. Turner uses his experience and creativity to develop, implement, and evaluate continuing education programs for staff development in Georgia's libraries. Most impressive of all of his efforts is Mr. Turner's Georgia Library Education Access Network (GLEAN), which is a cloud-based platform of more than 5,000 self-paced courses, 23,000 online books, and 10,000 educational videos. As budgets and opportunities for staff development continue to get leaner, GLEAN is an incredible achievement that is designed to engage and empower all of Georgia's library staff. With this award, GLA hopes to recognize all of his leadership, enthusiasm, and

commitment to furthering librarianship in Georgia.

Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award

The Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award is given each year to recognize someone, not



State Senator Jack Hill

employed by a library, who has made outstanding contributions to libraries. This year, GLA recognized State Senator Jack Hill. Senator Hill was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 1990, and he has chaired the Senate

Appropriations Committee since 2003. He has been instrumental in securing state support for public libraries, providing state matching funds for fifty-eight new and expanded libraries throughout the state. In addition, his Major Repair and Renovation Funding initiative has provided matching grants to refresh well over 200 public libraries. Earlier this year, he was key to getting a very important health insurance bill for public library staff to the vote. He also champions GALILEO and PINES and other statewide programs that help support all libraries in Georgia. For these efforts, GLA recognizes State Senator Jack Hill with the Charles Beard Library Advocacy Award.

McJenkin-Rheay Award

The McJenkin-Rheay Award recognizes a librarian early in his or her career who has made outstanding contributions to the Georgia Library Association, and GLA recognized Virginia Feher with this award. Virginia has been a member of GLA since 2009 and has been very active in the association. While still a student, she served as co-chair of the Atlanta Emerging Librarians (AEL), which is one of the most popular and active groups in GLA. The group

has grown to over 200 members of the library community, providing them with a much needed outlet for continuing education, networking, and support. Virginia has also personally mentored many of the members of AEL and encourages new librarians and MLIS students to get involved with GLA. Through her influence GLA, has gained many new members and leaders of committees and interest groups. In addition to AEL, Virginia has been chair of the New Members Round Table, chair of the Interest Group Council, and most recently has taken on the role of editor of the Georgia Library Quarterly (GLQ), the signature publication of GLA. The GLQ not only records

activities of the organization, but also publishes peer-reviewed academic papers on library topics from librarians around the country. Before becoming editor, Virginia served as Associate Editor and Peer-Review Coordinator of GLQ. She was instrumental in transitioning the GLQ into a peer reviewed publication and has maintained its high quality during her editorship. She is dedicated, efficient, and generous, and we are happy to recognize her efforts with this award.



Virginia Feher

GLA Team Award

The GLA Team Award is a relatively new award, given to honor a team of librarians that have collaborated in the past year to produce an excellent program, service, or support of Georgia Libraries. The winners of this year's award have done all three. This year we recognize the Southeastern Library Assessment Conference Planning Committee, consisting of Susan Bailey, Ameet Doshi, Jennifer Jones, Erin Nagel, and Sonya Gaither. This talented and

hardworking team of librarians successfully planned and implemented a conference that



Sonya Gaither

offered innovative, timely, and thought-provoking programs related to assessment in libraries. In addition, the committee partnered with the Association of Research Libraries (ARL), a conference sponsor, to provide a post-conference workshop titled "Using LibQUAL+

Effectively and Strategically," which enabled "staff with responsibilities for planning or assessment to gain a better understanding of their library's most recent LibQUAL+ survey results, how to use those results effectively to achieve service-quality improvements, and how to integrate this tool into the library's strategic planning and other organizational performance efforts." The Southeastern Library Assessment

Conference had over 100 attendees from all over the United States and Canada, with presenters from a variety of academic institutions in the US. The conference provided an affordable opportunity for Georgia librarians, and GLA members, interested in assessment.

Organizing a conference is a huge undertaking. Because of the success of this conference both regionally and nationally, the planning committee is to be commended for their hard work and dedication, resulting in furthering the education of attendees in the field of assessment, which is vital for discovering ways to improve services to library users. The award was accepted by Sonya Gaither on behalf of the entire committee.

Congratulations to all of the GLA Award winners!

For more information about the GLA Awards, please go to:
http://gla.georgialibraries.org/comm_awards_nomination.htm